

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION
Early Intervention Committee Meeting

LOCATION
Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date
December 17, 2008
9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Debbie Kitelinger
Meghan Johnson
Eric Gebhart
Maggie Ferry
Donna Swihart
Sheila Sellers
Amy Simpson
Mary Deitz
Linda Borghols

Community Members/Guests:

Geri Benshoof
Merle Birnbaum
Margaret Kavanaugh
Melora Gaber

Staff:

Teresa Holt

Reported by:

Lenny DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 9:00 a.m.
Roll Call

Welcome from the Chair

Announcements and Good News
Welcome New Members and Introductions

Teresa Holt announced that the Governor's budget came out yesterday with a 1.5 million proposed budget increase for Early Intervention/Infant Learning Programs. Teresa Holt also noted that that doesn't mean it's in the budget yet. It still has to go through the legislative process.

Teresa Holt stated that she did some researching and also found a \$500,000 budget increase in the Governor's Council budget for Mental Health Trust Workforce Development highly qualified Early Intervention/ILP program staff.

Meghan Johnson stated that the next step is going to the legislature and advocating by noting that it's already a part of the budget.

Approval of the Past Minutes

Sheila Sellers made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the past EIC meeting. Meghan Johnson **SECONDED**. The minutes were **APPROVED**.

Alaska's Kids Can't Wait Advocacy Plan

Talking Points

Teresa Holt stated that she thought the talking points were done, but there were some changes that came out of AILPA. When she gets them back she will e-mail them out to everyone.

ILP Provider Award

Teresa Holt asked Meghan Johnson if they discussed the possibility of the Governor presenting an ILP an award at the legislative committee meeting. Meghan Johnson stated that the legislative committee was focused on getting the community gathering planned and that they didn't discuss the award presentation.

Teresa Holt stated that the award presentation was not on the January Council agenda but that she will check with Millie Ryan to see if it could be added. If not, she suggested that maybe they approach someone on Key Campaign.

Amy Simpson stated that AILPA just sent out the nomination form to get nominations. She suggested that AILPA makes the request to the Governor to present the award. AILPA is meeting on Friday and maybe they can address this issue at that time.

Donna Swihart also volunteered to contact Steve Lesko or John Cannon from Key Campaign if they cannot get this into the Council's agenda.

Teresa Holt asked who will provide the transportation to Juneau for the provider who wins the award. Amy Simpson suggested that AILPA might pay for something but that they can get more information on that on Friday.

Amy Simpson also suggested another option of presenting the award at the ASSEC Conference. Linda Borghols added that she feels confident that the ASSEC convention would be a good platform to do it as well. Amy Simpson, Sheila Sellers, and Meghan Johnson all agreed that presenting at the ASSEC Conference and also recognizing the provider in Juneau would be nice.

Alaska's Kids Can't Wait Website

Teresa Holt stated that the website isn't up yet but that it's very close and she hopes to have some more information in January.

Review of the Workplan

Survey for Pre-School

Teresa Holt stated that she will send out an e-mail to Sharon, Margaret and Eric to see if they can set a date in early January to start on that.

Where to Turn on the Website

Teresa Holt thanked everyone for their comments and suggestions and stated that it's in the process of being reworked.

Report from OCS/ILP

Linda Borghols gave the report from OCS/ILP. She stated that they are excited about being in the Governor's budget. She stated that in terms of grantees and whatnot, it's been quiet, but they've been busy working on federal reports that are due. Linda also stated that the ASSEC Conference is coming up and that there will be an ILP stream and that the agenda should be on the website very soon. Registration is currently open.

Teresa Holt added that the committee members need to be aware that OCS/ILP will be asking for input for their federal reports. She asked for volunteers to serve on a small committee to review the report shortly after the holidays. Amy Simpson, Meghan Johnson, Debbie Kitelinger, and Sheila Sellers volunteered. Teresa Holt added that Sarah Souders would probably also like to be involved.

Report from AILPA

Amy Simpson reported that they are working on the advocacy plan and have put a lot of energy into it.

She stated that they are currently working on an advocacy toolkit that ILP grantee programs will have to help educate their group, their families, their staff and their boards on the efforts that are underway in the advocacy campaign. It will also be on the alaskakidscantwait.org website.

She concluded by reiterating that they will address the award issue when they meet on Friday.

Report from DEED

Sharon Schumacher was not present at the meeting and no report from DEED was given.

Conferences/Trainings/Meetings

Amy Simpson gave a brief presentation on the highlights of her time at the OSEP Conference. One of the highlights for her was a session about the movie "Including Samuel" which was a movie about a little boy with cerebral palsy and his family's efforts to include him in his community, family, and school.

Also included in that was a gentleman with cerebral palsy who talked about helping to teach children and families to find their voice.

She attended another session on Medicaid and how states are tackling reimbursement issues and funding early intervention.

She attended a session on Accountability on Aligning Assessment and Progress of the Early Learning Standards with IEPs and IFSPs. She also attended another one about early intervention service delivery models and what other states are doing to provide services in a quality way.

Maggie Ferry also discussed her highlights from the OSEP Conference and stated that the plenary speaker, Dan Habib, who showed a movie about his son Daniel, was very impressive. It made her more aware of how disabilities affect families and how trying it can be.

She attended New Tools in the Toolbox which dealt with new tools for early childhood assessments. She talked with other attendees who, like her, were frustrated with the current tools that are used.

She attended another workshop called Curriculum Framework as a Model for Quality Systems and Programming. She also attended the Influence of Trauma and Toxic Stress on the Social Emotional Health of Infants and Toddlers and their Families. She also attended a SpecialQuest, Birth through 5 session

Teresa Holt agreed with Amy and Maggie but also added that a highlight for her was Pat Levitt who talked about early childhood brain development and she felt it was something they could use in the Alaska Kids Can't Wait

campaign. She stated that he likened childhood brain development to brain architecture and gave an example of building a house and comparing it to brain development.

Teresa's other highlight was one in which states talked about using therapeutic assistance and how that works.

Teresa added that she also attended a pre-conference by someone who represents early intervention in the legislature and this person noted that President Elect Obama's team seems to have a really strong early childhood focus and that they're looking at aligning existing early childhood federal programs.

Teresa also stated that there was talk about making Part C mandatory so that it's not an optional item for states.

Geri Benshoof added that the State School Board has been working hard on alignment of curriculum from pre-school to college. Teresa Holt referred to it as P-16. Sheila Sellers agreed that that's really a sentiment from Commissioner LeDoux. Teresa Holt added that she had heard it on a federal level also.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the EIC will take place January 21, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.